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Letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of enclosing an assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Bangladesh Presidency in March 2000 (see annex), prepared in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451).

This assessment has been prepared on my own responsibility, but following consultations with members of the Council. It is intended for informative purposes and should not necessarily be considered as representing the views of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you could kindly arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Bangladesh (March 2000)

March 2000 was an intensive month with an agenda comprising major substantive, thematic and organizational issues before the Security Council. The Council played a timely, proactive and forward-looking role in peacekeeping, peace-building and peacemaking under the Presidency of Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh.

The Secretary-General personally participated in a number of public meetings of the Council and informal consultations of the whole on issues of critical importance. His participation in the meetings and consultations provided extremely useful insights into issues and inputs to the work of the Council.

The Bangladesh Presidency, as part of its commitment to enhancing transparency and participation, favoured holding Council meetings, as much as possible, in public. The Council held 10 public meetings including two thematic debates with the participation of the broader membership of the United Nations.

Apart from scheduled consultations on 20 working days out of 23, the Council members discussed and acted on a number of issues in response to developments. During the month, the Council considered nine reports by the Secretary-General of which five were on conflict situations and one on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. A meeting of the troop-contributing countries for MIPONUH was held on 13 March.

The Council adopted one resolution concerning Iraq and five presidential statements, on Haiti, Tajikistan, Guinea-Bissau, humanitarian issues, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The Council made notable progress in bringing greater openness and transparency and the participation of non-members in the meetings of the Council. The President personally briefed the non-members and the press immediately following each of the informal consultations. Efforts were made to make draft resolutions and draft presidential statements available to the broader membership as soon as they were tabled. The Presidency made the programme of work of the Council, press statements made by the President and one draft presidential statement (role of the Security Council in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) available on the web site of the Bangladesh Mission (http://www.un.int/bangladesh). The availability of the draft statement was also announced in the *Journal*.

During the month, the situations in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, East Timor, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Iraq, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Somalia, Tajikistan and Western Sahara were major sources of preoccupation for the Council.

Besides acting on conflict situations, the Council took action on areas in transition to post-conflict peace-building. Such were the cases of Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and Mozambique. The Council members also considered the situation in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea). A cross-cutting area on which Council members pronounced themselves for the first time through a press statement was the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

Humanitarian aspects of issues before the Council

Considering the disastrous humanitarian consequences of recent conflicts, the Bangladesh Presidency kept humanitarian issues high on the agenda. On 8 March, Council members considered the negotiated text of the presidential statement on humanitarian aspects of issues before the Council, which had earlier been introduced by Bangladesh. The Council held an open debate on 9 March on the theme "Maintaining international peace and security: humanitarian aspects of issues before the Security Council". The meeting was presided by Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. The Secretary-

General participated in the meeting and contributed to the debate. He considered the subject a critical aspect of United Nations missions. The presidential statement issued following the debate (S/PRST/2000/7) contains a number of critically important decisions and recommendations providing for better coordination and integration of humanitarian components in peacekeeping operations.

Post-conflict peace-building

The Council took up the thematic debate on post-conflict peace-building on 23 March. The Council considered the report (S/2000/101) of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Council adopted, following a day-long debate, a presidential statement containing recommendations on the role of the United Nations peace operations in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the context of post-conflict peace-building (S/PRST/2000/10).

Africa

Angola

The Council considered the question of Angola sanctions at an open briefing on 15 March. Robert Fowler (Canada), Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993), presented the report (S/2000/203) of the Panel of Experts established by Security Council resolution 1237 (1999). The report addressed all five areas in which sanctions were imposed against UNITA and made 39 recommendations on how to increase the effectiveness of the sanctions. It contained, *inter alia*, the recommendation that a monitoring mechanism be instituted to carry forward the work of the Panel and implement its recommendations. The report also named countries, individuals including at the highest levels of government, and entities found to be involved in violation of the sanctions. Members of the Council expressed general appreciation for the work of the Panel. Delegations of countries named in the report spoke of lack of clarity and credible evidence, presumption of guilt and discrimination.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In view of ceasefire violations and reported preparations for escalation of armed hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, members of the Council convened in informal consultations on 22 March. The President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council expressing grave concern over the resumption of hostilities and preparation for armed offensives; members of the Council met again on 28 March and the President made a second statement on their behalf (see below). After the informal consultations of 28 March, the President met the Ambassadors of the Lusaka signatory States to convey the concerns of the Council members and to urge them to respect their commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement. The Council thus remained actively seized of the situation and acted to preserve the fragile peace and secure conditions for deployment of MONUC authorized earlier.

Guinea-Bissau

The members of the Council considered the situation in Guinea-Bissau on 29 March at a public meeting. This has been a success story of the United Nations as described in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/250) on the developments in Guinea-Bissau. In a presidential statement, the Council paid tribute to the people of Guinea-Bissau for the success in their transition to democracy and emphasized the crucial importance of international support to the country in its post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building efforts (S/PRST/2000/11).

Eritrea and Ethiopia

Following reports of skirmishes, Council members held informal consultations on 14 March to discuss the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. They heard a briefing by the Secretariat. Members of the Council called upon the two parties to engage fully in the OAU process. They expressed concerns over the consequences of any resumption of violence. Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council urging the parties to exercise utmost restraint and to settle their differences through peaceful means (see below).

Mozambique

In view of the devastating floods in Mozambique, the members of the Council considered the impact of the natural disaster on the country, which had been making considerable progress in post-conflict peace-building. It was considered critically important to extend support to the country as the floods ravaged its economic infrastructure and caused serious damage to the landmine clearance programme. Without necessary international attention, serious disruption to hard-earned peace and reconstruction was feared. Members of the Council considered it appropriate that they express sympathy and solidarity with the Government and the people of Mozambique and call for international support for the country. Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on 6 March, expressing the views of the members of the Council (see below).

Sierra Leone

The Council members considered the situation in Sierra Leone on 8 March in view of hostile acts against UNAMSIL and seizure of weapons by RUF combatants from United Nations peacekeepers. Council members were also briefed by the Secretariat on the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation, particularly in the rebel-held areas. Following consultations, a presidential press statement was issues expressing the serious concerns of the members of the Council over the RUF acts as well as gross violation of humanitarian law and human rights (see below). Further, the Council met in a public meeting to consider the situation in Sierra Leone on 13 March on the basis of the report (S/2000/186) of the Secretary-General. The President made a statement to the press, on behalf of the Council members, following the meeting (see below).

Somalia

The Council members heard a briefing on 29 March on the evolving situation in Somalia and the various peace initiatives. They were of the view that the Djibouti initiative remained the most promising. Members of the Council agreed that a representative of Djibouti could be requested to brief the Council. Full support was extended to the initiative of the Chairman of the concerned sanctions Committee. The members of the Council expressed concern on the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in south central Somalia and the lack of a safe operating environment for humanitarian work. They reiterated that the peace process should ensure the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia.

Western Sahara

Reports about students, joined by local Saharawi people, demonstrating in parts of the north sector of Western Sahara, raised concerns in the Security Council. The Council members were briefed on 13 March by the Secretariat on the situation. The Secretariat reported that the situation had been brought under control by the authorities. The members of the Council felt that a clear message should be sent to the parties concerned underlining that recourse to violence must be avoided, as that would seriously affect the ongoing efforts under the United Nations settlement plan.

Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan

The substantive business of the month started on 3 March with urgent consultations on the situation in Afghanistan. The President of the Council made a statement to the press expressing the serious concerns of Council members over the resumption of the military offensive by the Afghan parties (see below). The Council followed up its consideration of the situation in Afghanistan on 20 March. They heard a briefing on the political, military, humanitarian and human rights situation by Francesc Vendrell, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, briefed the Council members about the threats to peace and security in the embattled country and around the region caused by drugs originating in Afghanistan. Arnoldo Listre, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), gave a briefing on the sanctions regime.

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

Members of the Council considered the situation in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) at informal consultations on 29 March. Members of the Council welcomed the conclusion of the Loloata Understanding between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the

Bougainville leaders. They underlined the importance of expeditious approval of the Understanding by the Papua New Guinea Parliament. They considered this Understanding an important step forward towards a peaceful settlement of the issues relating to Bougainville, in accordance with the Lincoln Agreement. They encouraged the parties to continue on this path of dialogue in a spirit of cooperation and understanding. They expressed appreciation for the useful role played by the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville. Following consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council (see below).

East Timor

The Council held a public meeting on the situation in East Timor on 21 March. Areas covered in the briefing included the economic and social situation, law and order, the security situation and refugees. During the period under review, the military command of the territory was handed over to UNTAET by INTERFET. The Presidents of Indonesia and Portugal and the Prime Minister of Ireland visited the Territory during that period. The economic and social situation was mentioned as an area of concern by the speakers at the meeting. The financial situation of UNTAET improved with fresh contributions to the United Nations trust fund. Revenue collection started, with the setting up of customs and taxation systems. Refugee return slowed down. However, measures were taken to reverse the trend.

Situation between Iraq and Kuwait

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait was discussed at a public meeting of the Council on 24 March. The Council meeting was devoted to consideration of the first report of the Secretary-General on Iraq pursuant to resolution 1284 (2000), focusing on the humanitarian situation in Iraq (S/2000/208). The Council met again on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on 31 March at a public meeting to vote on a draft resolution, by which it approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General to raise the allocation of resources to US$ 600 million for oil spare parts.

Situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

At the informal consultations on 10 March, members of the Council discussed the situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border. The situation was the subject of further consideration at a public meeting on 21 March, during which the Council considered the interim report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/214). The Council welcomed the progress in the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. The Council noted with satisfaction that the United Nations played an important role in the process.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

The situation in Haiti was considered by the Council members in informal consultations on 3 March. They considered the report (S/2000/150) of the Secretary-General and agreed to issue a presidential statement welcoming Haiti's transition from the phase of peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-building and economic reconstruction and rehabilitation. A presidential statement, the draft of which was tabled by Argentina on behalf of the Friends of Haiti, was accordingly negotiated and adopted at a public meeting on 15 March (S/PRST/2000/8).

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council had an open briefing on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 22 March. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/215), which reviewed supporting activities of the United Nations since 17 December 1999. The report noted that, despite continuing difficulties, progress was made in police restructuring, review of the judicial system and establishment of a Brcko unified police force. Despite the New York Declaration of 15 November 1999, the implementation of the State Border Service had been delayed. Bosnian Croat authorities in Mostar refused to integrate the Ministry of the Interior and the local police force on the west side of Mostar. Speakers underlined the importance of the integration of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as that of the police

system throughout the Federation, particularly in Mostar.

Kosovo

The Council held a private meeting on the situation in Kosovo on 6 March. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/177). The Council had a briefing by Bernard Kouchner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General drew the Council's particular attention to the progress made and difficulties faced by UNMIK in implementing relevant United Nations resolutions. He invited the Council to pay a visit to Kosovo to see the realities on the ground and to convey a strong message to all parties to cease violence and to cooperate with the Mission. The Council reviewed the progress in implementing resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999). Members of the Council deliberated on difficulties faced by the United Nations mission and the ways and means to address them. They extended strong support to Mr. Kouchner and UNMIK. At subsequent consultations, the Council members considered the idea of sending a mission to Kosovo. The finalization of the terms of reference and the dates of the proposed mission was passed on to the next Presidency.

Organizational matters

International Court of Justice

The formal business of the month started on 2 March with the public meeting of the Council, concurrently with the General Assembly, to elect one member of the International Court of Justice to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Stephen Schwebel of the United States of America. Judge Thomas Buergenthal was elected to serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term until 5 February 2006.

General issues relating to sanctions

An area of particular concern for the Council has been the general issues relating to sanctions. Concerns had been expressed that some sanctions committees were so ineffective that they were called dormant, and some others were not implemented effectively, or comprehensively or in a targeted manner. The Bangladesh Presidency took the initiative to address the matter in an effective manner. An expert group was set up on 10 March to submit draft terms of reference for a working group to be established to make recommendations on general issues related to sanctions. With the setting up of the working group, a long-felt need for review of the sanctions regimes will be addressed.

Transparency, openness and wider participation

The Presidency favoured greater transparency, openness and wider participation of the broader membership and observers in the work of the Council. The holding of a public meeting on the humanitarian situation in Iraq marked a major breakthrough after several years on this issue. The participation of members of the Peace Implementation Council in the open briefing on Bosnia and Herzegovina marked a departure from the oft-followed practice of having consultations or private meetings on the issue. Public meetings were held on such sensitive issues as Angola sanctions. The Council also held public meetings on East Timor, Guinea-Bissau and Tajikistan.

Working Group on Documentation and Procedure

As the Chair for the month, in the Working Group on Documentation and Procedure, Bangladesh submitted five draft notes proposing improvement in some aspects of the Council's documentation and procedure. The Group examined, among others, issues relating to distribution of the text of statements, communicating Council decisions and messages to all concerned and, deciding on the nomenclature of different formats of Council meetings. The Group held two meetings at which all five draft notes were discussed. Agreement could be reached on the proposal to change the practice regarding distribution of the text of statements. Under the previous practice (see S/1994/329), each time the text of a statement in a public meeting was made available outside the Council Chamber delegates had to rush out for a copy. The practice was inconvenient for delegates attending the meeting. Besides, the movement for the collection of texts of statements disrupted the meeting. The Council members agreed to the recommendation made by the Working Group to make arrangements for the

distribution of the texts of such statements within the Council Chamber. The new practice has been formalized in a note by the President (S/2000/274).

Other matters

Security Council summit

The Presidency pursued the idea of a Security Council summit to be held on the sidelines of the Millennium Summit. The last Security Council summit, it may be recalled, was held on 31 January 1992 under the United Kingdom Presidency. The summit focused on the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. It concluded with the issuance of a substantive presidential statement requesting the Secretary-General to prepare an analysis and submit recommendations on enhancing the capacity of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping. The Secretary-General submitted the report in 1994 under the title "An Agenda for Peace". The President of the Council discussed the matter with the Secretary-General during their meeting on 1 March. The Secretary-General mentioned a report that he would submit on United Nations peace operations in July. Different aspects of the proposed Council summit had been under discussion, notably under the initiative of Mali as President of the Council in September.

Security Council retreat

The Presidency also broached the idea of a Security Council retreat with the Secretary-General. This was the subject of further discussion in informal consultations. The idea was to give scope for the Permanent Representatives of the Council members, in an informal setting, to have a free and frank exchange of views among themselves and the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Secretariat. The last such retreat took place on 5 and 6 June 1999 and was found to be extremely useful. The Secretary-General agreed to the idea and the dates were fixed subsequently for 2 and 3 June.

Participation in the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council

An important instance in the cooperation with and coordination among other major organs of the United Nations was set by the participation of the Presidents of the Council for December 1999, January 2000 and March 2000 in the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council, held on 8 March. The three Presidents attended the meeting at the invitation of Hans Dahlgren, Permanent Representative of Sweden, and John de Saram, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, Vice-Chairmen of the Working Group. The meeting offered them an opportunity to exchange views with the Working Group on some of the issues related to working methods and documentation, including those dealt with in the recent two notes by the President of the Council (S/1999/1291; S/2000/155).

United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

At their informal consultations on 8 March, members of the Council considered the text of a presidential press statement proposed by Bangladesh on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press paying tribute to the role of women in the promotion of peace and security, highlighting the consequences for women of conflicts and calling for strengthening provisions for protection of women in armed conflict (see below). The statement, the first ever on this occasion by a Security Council President, was specially fitting on the first Women's Day of the new millennium.

Communications acted upon by the President

During the month, the Presidency received communications which were brought to the attention of Council members (see enclosure III). The President raised the issues contained in some of the communications, under other matters, in informal consultations, whenever it was deemed essential.

Meetings of the President

As is the practice, the President had meetings with the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Chairs of the regional groups at the beginning of the Presidency. The content of the discussions was conveyed to the members of the Council by the President. In the course of the month, the President had a number of meetings with representatives of Members and Observers of the United Nations, heads of United Nations agencies and missions, United Nations envoys, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations. The meetings with Members of the United Nations included demarches made by the representatives and those requested by Council members in connection with the issues before the Council. The President kept Council members informed of the content and outcome of the meetings.

Briefing of non-members of the Council and the press

In the interest of greater transparency and involvement of the broader membership in the work of the Council, the President briefed non-members immediately after every informal consultation of the whole. The briefing given personally by the President demonstrated the importance the members of the Council attached to keeping the United Nations Members informed of the substantive content of the issues under discussion. In a similar spirit, the President also briefed the press on a regular basis following informal consultations.

Working luncheon in honour of the Secretary-General

The traditional working luncheon hosted by the Bangladesh Presidency on 6 March had the situation in Kosovo on its agenda and implementation of Council resolution 1244 (1999) as its focus. The free and frank discussions, with the participation of the Secretary-General, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Bernard Kouchner, were extremely useful.

Wrap-up session

The Bangladesh Presidency concluded the Presidency with a wrap-up session in informal consultations with the participation of the Secretary-General. The President made an introductory statement giving his assessment of the work of the Council during the month and reflecting on follow-up actions. The Secretary-General stated his own views on the priorities and the course of action on some of the issues before the Council. Members of the Council engaged in an interactive discussion with the Secretary-General. It provided an occasion to review the work of the month, discuss follow-up and reflect on the future course of action on some issues before the Council as well as other matters related to the Council's work. Many members felt that such wrap-up was useful and could continue in future.

Other events

Visit to Washington

Apart from the business of the Council, a special event of the month was a visit undertaken by representatives of all Council members to Washington on 30 March. The visit took place at the invitation, to Permanent Representatives of Council members in their individual capacities, of the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the United States Secretary of State and the Chair and a ranking member of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During the first ever such visit, the Ambassadors had meetings with high officials of the State Department, the White House and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Discussions included issues before the United Nations and strengthening the role of the United States in the United Nations.

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

Afghanistan (3 March 2000)

Members of the Security Council expressed their dismay about reports of a new offensive launched by the Taliban which once again could undermine international efforts to facilitate the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and contribute to further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country. They recalled the repeated demands by the Council that the Afghan parties cease fighting and resume negotiations under United Nations auspices without delay and preconditions, in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council.

Members of the Council underlined that the failure of the leadership of the Taliban to comply with the demands made in its previous resolutions, particularly its resolution 1267 (1999), is unacceptable. They reaffirmed the readiness of the Council to consider the imposition of further measures to achieve the full implementation of its resolutions.

Floods in Mozambique (6 March 2000)

Members of the Security Council, extending the deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of lives and extensive material damage, express strong support for and solidarity with the people and the Government of Mozambique in their resolve to meet the twin challenges of recovery and reconstruction following widespread devastation caused by the recent floods. They note with appreciation the determined efforts of the Government of President Chissano in alleviating the suffering of his people.

Members of the Security Council recognize the enormity of the disaster that befell the people of Mozambique due to the floods. They recall the courage and determination of the people of Mozambique and their leaders in coming out of the long and bloody civil war and in embarking on an exemplary endeavour at comprehensive nation-building. Members of the Council are gravely concerned that the present floods have seriously slowed the impressive progress of recent years, particularly in the areas of rehabilitation of victims of war and large-scale demining, and could severely erode the benefits of post-war recovery.

Members of the Security Council commend the regional and international efforts for relief and rehabilitation in Mozambique. At this hour of national emergency, they urge all Governments and the international community as a whole, including the United Nations, to do as much as possible to help the people and the Government of Mozambique to overcome the damaging effects of the floods. They also call for all possible steps needed to avert a humanitarian crisis that could endanger the hard-won peace and security and to help return the economy of the country to the road of progress and development as soon as possible.

International Women's Day (8 March 2000)

As the first International Women's Day of the new millennium is observed throughout the world, members of the Security Council recognize that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men. They affirm that the equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. In this context, members welcome the review of the Fourth World Conference on Women as an essential element in achieving this goal.

Members of the Council also recognize that while entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict, women and girls are particularly affected. The impact of violence against women and violation of the human rights of women in conflict situations is experienced by women of all ages. Women also constitute the majority of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons.

Members of the Council note that, although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building, they are still under-represented in decision-making in regard to conflict. If women are to play an equal part in security and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically, and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making, both at the pre-conflict stage and during hostilities, as well as at the point of peacekeeping, peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction.

Members of the Council also note that during times of armed conflict and the collapse of communities, the role of women is crucial in preserving social order, and as peace educators both in their families and in their societies, thereby playing an important role in fostering a culture of peace in strife-torn communities and societies.

Members of the Council call upon all concerned to refrain from human rights abuses in conflict situations, often in gender-specific ways, to respect international humanitarian law and to promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and a culture of peace.

Members of the Council recall the obligation to prosecute those responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law, while welcoming the inclusion as a war crime, in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, of all forms of sexual violence and noting the role the Court could play in ending impunity for perpetrators of such crimes.

Members of the Council stress that efforts should be strengthened to provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women in conflict situations.

Members of the Council underscore the importance of promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes while addressing armed or other conflicts.

Sierra Leone (8 March 2000)

On 8 March, the Secretariat briefed Council members about the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone.

Council members view with deep concern reports of continuing human rights abuses, in particular gross violence against women and girls, being committed by rebel groups, especially as the International Women's Day is being observed today, as well as reports of a serious humanitarian situation especially in those parts of the country where United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone access is being obstructed.

This is unacceptable given the commitments made by all parties to the Lomé Peace Agreement to ensure protection and promotion of human rights and unhindered access throughout the country.

Council members fully support the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the UNAMSIL Force Commander in their efforts to fulfil the Mission's mandate, which includes provisions for the protection of civilians within its capabilities and areas of deployment, and to deploy throughout the country. They also encourage the Special Representative to continue to take a firm line with former rebel leaders over continued human rights abuses and non-compliance with the Lomé Peace Agreement.

Council members welcome the meeting at Bamako on 2 March to facilitate the peace process in Sierra Leone and call upon all concerned to adhere to its recommendations.

Council members call on the leader of the Revolutionary United Front, Foday Sankoh, to genuinely order his forces to end immediately all RUF human rights abuses; to ensure immediate removal of all RUF roadblocks — for which there is no justification; and to return all weapons illegally seized from UNAMSIL peacekeeping forces, as he has previously agreed.

Sierra Leone (13 March 2000)

Members of the Security Council endorse in general the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report (S/2000/186 of 7 March 2000).

Council members place great weight on the early implementation of all aspects of the Lomé Peace Agreement and commend the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Oluyemi Adeniji, and of UNAMSIL to this end.

Council members express their disappointment at the slow progress being made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in particular.

Council members call upon all signatories to the Lomé Agreement, and in particular upon Chairman Sankoh and RUF, to reaffirm and demonstrate a concrete commitment to the Lomé peace process by allowing the extension of State authority throughout Sierra Leone, in full cooperation with UNAMSIL and with the United Nations team as a whole, and by instructing the RUF membership to disarm and to surrender all weapons, including their heavy weapons, mines and anti-aircraft equipment.

Council members urge Member States to enforce strictly the travel ban imposed by the Council and remind concerned Sierra Leonean leaders of their obligation to obtain exemptions before travelling abroad without exception.

Council members welcomed the upcoming donors conference in London on 27 March and urged United Nations Members to participate and contribute generously to the peace process and development efforts in Sierra Leone.

Eritrea and Ethiopia (14 March 2000)

Members of the Council heard an update on the status of the Organization of African Unity's efforts to settle the ongoing dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Members expressed their strong support for the continuing peace process and for the efforts of OAU and its Chairman, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of Algeria, and other interested parties.

Members called upon both Eritrea and Ethiopia to cooperate fully and urgently with OAU and participate constructively in its ongoing efforts to achieve implementation of the peace plan contained in the framework agreement and its modalities for implementation.

Members underscored their continuing interest in this issue, urged restraint, and will continue to follow the situation closely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (22 March 2000)

Council members were briefed today by the Secretariat about recent military developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Council members expressed their dismay at the new offensive launched in the province of Kasai, which resulted in the seizure of the town of Idumbe.

Council members were also deeply concerned about the continued fighting in the provinces of Equator, Katanga and Kivu and reports of widespread preparations being made for further military action, including training and significant rearmament.

Council members, in this context, expressed serious concern about the violations of resolution 1291 (2000) and the Lusaka Agreement.

Council members demanded that all parties stop immediately the hostilities, and respect their commitment to the ceasefire agreement.

Council members emphasized that the deployment of MONUC could not be completed in the midst of hostilities. They called on all parties to commit themselves to a Joint Military Commission sitting in permanent session and with representatives empowered to provide all appropriate assistance to implement the Lusaka Agreement.

Council members expressed their strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Morjane, and for the facilitator, President Masire, and welcomed the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bernard Miyet, to facilitate MONUC deployment.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (28 March 2000)

Council members were briefed today on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bernard Miyet, upon his return from his visit to the country and to other Lusaka signatories.

Council members appreciated the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General to facilitate MONUC deployment.

Council members reiterated their dismay at the offensive launched in the province of Kasai. They also reiterated their concern about continued fighting in other parts of the country.

Council members, in this context, expressed serious concern about the violations of resolution 1291 (2000) and the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

Council members expressed their strong support for the Lusaka process, and demanded once again that all parties immediately stop the hostilities and respect their commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement.

Council members also reiterated their strong support for early conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement.

Council members appealed to all parties to guarantee full access to MONUC throughout the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Council members reiterated their strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Morjane, and for the facilitator, President Masire.

Papua New Guinea (29 March 2000)

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, on the political developments in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

Members of the Council welcomed the signing of the Loloata Understanding by the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainville leaders. They underlined the importance of expeditious approval of the Understanding by the Papua New Guinea Parliament.

Members of the Council expressed appreciation for the role played by Noel Sinclair, Director of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, in the process.

Members of the Council considered this Understanding an important step forward towards a peaceful settlement of the issues relating to Bougainville, in accordance with the Lincoln Agreement.

Members of the Council also supported the helpful role that the United Nations can play in the talks, as acknowledged in the Understanding.

Members of the Council reiterated their commitment to support fully the Bougainville peace process.

Members of the Council encouraged the parties to continue on this path of dialogue in a spirit of cooperation and understanding.

Enclosure I

Provisional Programme of Work of the Security Council for March 2000

Updated 31 March 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am: Bilaterals 3.00 pm: Bilaterals *- SG's report on Haiti (res. 1277) due*	2 9:30 am. Bilaterals 3:00 pm: Consultations 5:00 pm: Public Meeting - ICJ elections	3 am: Consultations - Afghanistan - Haiti SG's report (res 1277)	4
5 *SG's Report on Sierra Leone (res. 1289) due*	6 am: Private meeting -Kosovo: briefing by Mr Kouchner and General Reinhardt *Luncheon in honour of the SG*	7	8 am: Consultations -Humanitarian aspects of issues before the Security Council - Presidential Press statement -International Women's Day	9 am: Open debate - Humanitarian aspects of issues before the Security Council pm: *Open debate (resumed)*	10 am: Consultations - Tajkistan - General issues relating to sanctions *SG's report on Iraq (res 1281 & 1284) due*	11
12	13 am: Consultations -Western Sahara am: Open briefing - Sierra Leone SG's Report (res. 1289) pm: *TCC - MIPONUH*	14 am: Consultations -Eritrea- Ethiopia	15 am: Open briefing - Angola Sanctions pm: Open briefing Angola Sanctions *MIPONUH mandt. exp.* *SG's report on Tajikistan (res. 1274) due*	16 *UN holiday* *Eid ul Adha*	17	18 *SG's report on Bosnia-Herzegovina (res. 1247 due)*
19	20 am: Consultations - Afghanistan	21 am: Consultations -Tajikistan am: Open briefing - East Timor pm: Open briefing - Tajikistan	22 am: Consultations - DRC am: Open briefing - Bosnia-Herzegovina SG's report (res. 1247)	23 am: Open debate Post conflict peace building: Role of UN in DDR (SG's report (S/2000/101)	24 am: Open briefing - SG's report (res. 1281 & 1284) on Iraq pm: Open briefing -Iraq continued	25
26	27 pm: W.G. on Documentation and Procedure *SG's report on Guinea-Bissau (res. 1233) due* *Bangladesh National Day Reception*	28 am: Consultations - DRC	29 am: Open briefing - Guinea-Bissau *SG's report (res. 1233)* am: Consultations -Somalia - Bougainville,PNG pm: consultations cont.	30 am: W.G. on Documentation and Procedure	31 am: Public meeting - Iraq am: Consultations - Wrap Up *Presidency Reception*	

S/2000/270

Enclosure II

Reports of the Secretary-General considered by the Security Council in March 2000

S/2000/269	*30 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission
S/2000/250	*24 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau
S/2000/215	*15 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
S/2000/214	*14 March 2000*	Interim report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan
S/2000/208	*10 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 28 and 30 of resolution 1284 (1999) and paragraph 5 of resolution 1281 (1999)
S/2000/186	*7 March 2000*	Third report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
S/2000/177	*3 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
S/2000/150	*1 March 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Haiti
S/2000/101	*11 February 2000*	Report of the Secretary-General on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

S/2000/205 10 March 2000, report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan, was issued as document A/54/791-S/2000/205. The report was not formally considered by the Council, but was circulated among members for information prior to informal consultations.

Enclosure III

Communications addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of March 2000 (Bangladesh) since Monday, 1 March 2000

Communications cleared by the Presidency for issuance as S/documents

From	Date	Subject	Action
1. United Republic of Tanzania	1 March	Burundi	S/2000/165
2. Secretary-General	24 Feb	Iraq: Hajj pilgrimage	S/2000/167
3. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	1 March	Statement by Mr. Carl Bildt	S/2000/169
4. Secretary-General	28 February	MONUC Force Commander	S/2000/172
5. Secretary-General	2 March	Iraq: Hajj pilgrimage	S/2000/175
6. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	2 March	Memorandum on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)	S/2000/176
7. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	3 March	Kosovo	S/2000/178
8. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	3 March	KFOR	S/2000/179
9. Croatia	3 March	Prevlaka	S/2000/180
10. Slovenia	3 March	Assessment of the work of the Security Council for November 1999	S/2000/181
11. Iraq	3 March	Alleged illegal entry into Iraqi territory	S/2000/182
12. Syrian Arab Republic	2 March	Retention of items	S/2000/183
13. Ethiopia	6 March	Eritrea/ Ethiopia	S/2000/185
14. Secretary-General	23 February	ICTY vacancy	S/2000/188
15. Secretary-General	7 March	Monthly SFOR report	S/2000/190
16. Iraq	6 March	Alleged violations of Iraqi airspace	S/2000/191
17. Egypt	7 March	Retention of items	S/2000/192
18. Secretary-General	7 March	Appointment of ICTY Judge	S/2000/195

19. Sudan	7 March	Retention of items	S/2000/198
20. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	8 March	Kosovo	S/2000/199
21. Uganda	8 March	Angola: meeting with the Panel of Experts	S/2000/200
22. Secretary-General	3 March	UNOGBIS	S/2000/201
23. 864 Committe	10 March	Angola: final report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/203
24. Secretary-General	10 March	Iraq: UNMOVIC	S/2000/207
25. New Zealand	10 March	Nuclear disarmament	S/2000/210
26. Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 March	New York Declaration	S/2000/211
27. Afghanistan	15 March	Taliban	S/2000/218
28. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	15 March	Kosovo	S/2000/219
29. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	16 March	Kosovo	S/2000/222
30. Secretary-General	13 March	UNTSO Chief of Staff	S/2000/223
31. Gabon	15 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/225
32. Iraq	15 March	Alleged air attack	S/2000/226
33. Iraq	15 March	Alleged sorties over Iraq	S/2000/227
34. Belgium	15 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/228
35. Democratic Republic of the Congo	17 March	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement	S/2000/229
36. Portugal	17 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/230
37. Rwanda	21 March	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement	S/2000/234
38. Secretary-General	20 March	KFOR report	S/2000/235
39. Secretary-General	21 March	INTERFET report	S/2000/236

40. Cuba	13 March	Retention of items	S/2000/237
41. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	21 March	Retention of items	S/2000/238
42. Uganda	22 March	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement	S/2000/239
43. Bulgaria	22 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/240
44. Ethiopia	22 March	Eritrea/Ethiopia	S/2000/241
45. 661 Committee	22 March	661 Committee report	S/2000/242
46. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	8 March	Libyan sanctions	S/2000/243
47. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	22 March	Kosovo	S/2000/244
48. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	22 March	UNMIK	S/2000/245
49. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	22 March	KFOR	S/2000/246
50. Eritrea	23 March	Eritrea/Ethiopia	S/2000/247
51. Bosnia and Herzegovina	23 March	ICTY	S/2000/248
52. Burkina Faso	24 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/249
53. Uganda	24 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/252
54. Palestinian Rights Committee	24 March	Retention of items	S/2000/253
55. Algeria	24 March	Democratic Republic of the Congo	S/2000/254
56. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	23 March	4117th meeting of the Security Council	S/2000/255
57. Togo	24 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/256
58. Iraq	27 March	Alleged sorties over Iraq	S/2000/259
59. Iraq	27 March	Alleged air attack	S/2000/260
60 Papua New Guinea	28 March	Bougainville	S/2000/265

61. Bulgaria	29 March	Angola: report of the Panel of Experts	S/2000/267
62. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	29 March	Kosovo	S/2000/270
63. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	30 March	Kosovo	S/2000/272
64. Democratic Republic the Congo	31 March	Kisangani	S/2000/273

Cleared by the Presidency and faxed informally to members or put on the table at Council consultations of the whole

	From	Date	Subject	Action
65.	Secretary-General	7 March	Panel on United Nations Peace Operations	Faxed on 7 March
66.	Secretariat	6 March	UNMIK Regulation 6	Faxed on 7 March
67.	Secretary-General	3 March	UNOGBIS	Faxed on 8 March
68.	Mali	7 March	Mano River Union communiqué	Faxed on 9 March
69.	Spain	6 March	ICTY	Faxed on 9 March
70.	Algeria	7 March	Eritrea/Ethiopia	Faxed on 9 March
71.	Burundi	7 March	Burundi and South Africa joint communiqué	Faxed on 10 March
72.	Ukraine	6 March	Retention of items	Faxed on 10 March
73.	Secretariat	10 March	UNMIK Regulations 9, 10 and 11	Distributed on 14 March
74.	Burundi	13 March	Regroupement sites	Faxed on 14 March
75.	Note by Secretariat	14 March	Installation of LAN system	Faxed on 15 March
76.	Italy	17 March	Meeting of the Security Council: Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faxed on 17 March
77.	High Commissioner for Human Rights	17 March	Iraq sanctions	Faxed on 20 March
78.	Secretariat	20 March	UNMIK Regulation 12	Faxed on 21 March
79.	Secretary-General	20 March	KFOR report	Faxed on 20 March
80.	Germany	21 March	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faxed on 20 March

81.	Secretary-General	21 March	INTERFET report	Faxed on 22 March
82.	Secretariat	22 March	UNMIK Regulations 13 and 14	Faxed on 23 March
83.	Ukraine	17 March	Retention of items	Faxed on 23 March
84.	United Nations Compensation Commission	22 March	Iraq: report of the Governing Council	Faxed on 24 March
85.	Secretariat	27 March	UNMIK Regulations 15, 16 and 17	Faxed on 27 March
86	Djibouti	27 March	Somalia	Distributed on 28 March at the consultations of the whole
87.	Ms.Fatun Mohamed Hassan	20 March	Somalia	On table at the consultations of the whole on 28 March
88.	Algeria	22 March	Central African Republic	Faxed on 30 March
89.	Polisario Front	9 March	Western Sahara	Faxed on 31 March
90.	Djibouti	28 March	IGAD: Sudan	Faxed on 31 March
91.	League of Arab States	30 March	Lebanon	Faxed on 31 March
92.	League of Arab States	30 March	Libya: Lockerbie	Faxed on 31 March
93.	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	31 March	Kosovo	Faxed on 31 March

Enclosure IV

President's meetings with representatives/personalities during March 2000

Wednesday, 1 March

Dr. Hans Blix, Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC

Friday, 3 March

H.E. Mr. Maxi Murat, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Haiti

H.E. Mr. Dieter Kastrup, Permanent Representative of Germany

Tuesday, 7 March

Mrs. Sylvie Junod, Head of delegation, ICRC

Wednesday, 8 March

Mrs. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights

H.E. Mr. Hans Dahlgren, Permanent Representative of Sweden and H.E. Mr. John de Saram, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka (as Vice-Chairmen of the Open-Ended Working Group on the question of equitable representation on an increased membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council)

Friday, 10 March

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Snoussi, Permanent Representative of Morocco

H.E. Mr. Haile Menkerios, Permanent Representative of Eritrea

H.E. Mr. Duri Mohammed, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia

Monday, 13 March

H.E. Mr. Abdallah Baali, Permanent Representative of Algeria

Mr. Franz Von Daniken, Secretary of State of Switzerland

Wednesday, 15 March

H.E. Mr. Joao Bernardo de Miranda, Minister of External Relations of Angola

Wednesday, 29 March

Representatives of the Lusaka Agreement signatory States

Mr. Hans Blix, Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC

H.E. Mr. Michel Kafano, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso

Friday, 31 March

Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, High-Level Coordinator on Iraq